

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new Claims 22-32 and please amend Claims 1-9 as provided in the following Listing of Claims:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor, wherein the processor processes a request to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in a patient's healthcare record or a patient's healthcare file ~~associated with a patient~~, wherein the processor determines whether ~~a requesting~~ an individual or entity is authorized to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, ~~wherein the processor facilitates an at least one of accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modifying, of the information contained in the healthcare record or the healthcare file,~~ and further wherein the processor generates a notification report containing information regarding the ~~at least one of accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modifying, of the information contained in the healthcare~~

~~record or the healthcare file~~ request to at least one of
access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information
contained in a patient's healthcare record or a patient's
healthcare file, wherein the notification report contains
information regarding at least one of the individual or entity
who or which obtained, accessed, changed, altered, or
modified, the patient's healthcare record or the patient's
healthcare file, identification information regarding the
individual or entity, a time and date the individual or entity
obtained, accessed, changed, altered, or modified, the
patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file,
a reason for the individual or entity obtaining, accessing,
changing, altering, or modifying, the patient's healthcare
record or the patient's healthcare file, a nature of any
change, alteration, or modification, made to the information
contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's
healthcare file, and information regarding a subject of, or an
actual change, alteration, or modification, made to the
patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file;
and

a transmitter, wherein the transmitter transmits the
notification report to a patient communication device
~~associated with~~ of the patient, and further wherein the

notification report is transmitted to the patient communication device ~~in real-time~~ on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web or on or over a wireless communication network.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~requesting~~ individual or entity is ~~at least one of a patient, a healthcare provider, a healthcare payer, an insurance provider, and a third party.~~

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a receiver, wherein the receiver receives the request to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processor processes at least one of identification information, a password, an electronic signature, and a code, of or associated with the ~~requesting~~ individual or entity.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the notification report contains information regarding at least one of an ~~accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, modification,~~ attempted accessing, an attempted obtaining, an attempted changing, an attempted altering, and an attempted modification, of the information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the ~~processor~~ apparatus stores information regarding the at least one of an accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modification, or the at least one of an attempted accessing, an attempted obtaining, an attempted changing, an attempted altering, and an attempted modification, of the information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the ~~processor~~ apparatus generates an activity report containing information regarding the at least one of an accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modification, or the at least one of an attempted accessing, an attempted obtaining, an attempted changing, an attempted altering, and an attempted modification, of the information contained in the

patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, wherein the activity report is generated at least one of weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, and annually.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the apparatus transmits the activity report to the patient communication device or to a second patient communication device.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a receiver for receiving information regarding a restriction or limitation regarding an ability of an individual or entity to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in a patient's healthcare record or a patient's healthcare file of a patient, wherein the information regarding a restriction or limitation is transmitted from a patient communication device;

a memory device for storing the information regarding the restriction or limitation; and

~~at least one of a receiver for receiving and a memory device for storing at least one of a restriction and a limitation regarding an ability of a first individual or entity to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in a healthcare record or a healthcare file, wherein the healthcare record or the healthcare file is associated with a second individual, and further wherein the at least one of a restriction and a limitation is transmitted to the receiver from a communication device associated with the second individual, and~~

a processor for processing a request to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, wherein the processor processes the request utilizing the information regarding ~~at least one of a the restriction and a~~ or limitation, and further wherein the processor determines whether an at least one of accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modification, of the information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file is at least one of authorized, allowed, not authorized, not allowed, and restricted, based on the information regarding ~~at least one of a restriction and a~~ or limitation.

Claims 10-21. (Canceled)

Claim 22. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the individual or entity is a healthcare provider.

Claim 23. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the individual or entity is a healthcare payer or an insurance provider.

Claim 24. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

a receiver for receiving a signal or message transmitted from the patient communication device, wherein the signal or message contains information for terminating an at least one of an accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modifying, of information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file.

Claim 25. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

a memory device for storing information regarding a restriction or limitation regarding an ability of the

individual or entity to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file of a patient, wherein the restriction or limitation is transmitted to the receiver from the patient communication device of the patient,

wherein the processor processes the request utilizing the information regarding the restriction or limitation and determines whether an at least one of accessing, obtaining, changing, altering, and modification, of the information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file is at least one of authorized, allowed, not authorized, not allowed, and restricted.

Claim 26. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the patient communication device is a telephone.

Claim 27. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the patient communication device is a personal computer.

Claim 28. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the patient communication device is a personal digital assistant.
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Claim 29. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the patient communication device is a television or an interactive television.

Claim 30. (New) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the processor generates a notification report containing information regarding the request to at least one of access, obtain, change, alter, and modify, information contained in a patient's healthcare record or a patient's healthcare file, wherein the notification report contains information regarding at least one of the individual or entity who or which obtained, accessed, changed, altered, or modified, the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, identification information regarding the individual or entity, a time and date the individual or entity obtained, accessed, changed, altered, or modified, the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, a reason for the individual or entity obtaining, accessing, changing, altering, or modifying, the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, a nature of any change, alteration, or modification, made to the information contained in the patient's healthcare record or the patient's healthcare file, and information regarding a subject of, or an actual change, alteration, or modification, made to the patient's healthcare

record or the patient's healthcare file, and further wherein the apparatus further comprises:

a transmitter, wherein the transmitter transmits the notification report to the patient communication device or to a second patient communication device.

Claim 31. (New) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein the notification report is transmitted to the patient communication device or to the second patient communication device on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web or on or over a wireless communication network.

Claim 32. (New) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein information regarding a restriction or limitation is transmitted to the receiver on or over at least one of the Internet and the World Wide Web.